THE

CRISIS.

NUMBER I. *To be continued Weekly.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1775. [*Price Two-pence Half-penny.*

Potior visa est Periculosa libertas quito servitio.

SALUST.

To the People of ENGLAND and AMERICA.

Friends and Fellow Subjects,

IT is with the greateſt Propriety I addreſs this Paper to you: It is in your Defence, at this GREAT, this IMPORTANT *CRISIS*, I take the Pen in Hand: A *CRISIS*; big with the Fate of the moſt glorious Empire known in the Records of Time; and by *your Firmneſs* and *Reſolution*, *ONLY*, it can be ſaved from *DESTRUCTION*: By *your Firmneſs* and *Reſolution*, you may preſerve to yourſelves, your immediate Offſpring, and lateſt Poſterity, all the glorious Bleſſings of *Freedom*, given by Heaven to undeſerving Mortals: By *your Supineneſs* and *Puſſilanimity*, you will entail on yourſelves, your Children, and Millions yet unborn, Miſery and Slavery.

It is in your Defence I now ſtand forth to oppoſe, the moſt ſanguinary, and deſpotic Court that ever diſgraced a free Country.

It is in your Defence I now unſheath the Sword of Juſtice, to oppoſe the moſt profligate and abandoned Adminiſtration, that ever ſhewed the Weakneſs, or abuſed the Confidence of a Prince.

It is in your Defence I now ſtand forth, with a Firmneſs and Reſolution becoming an *Engliſhman* determined to be *Free*, to oppoſe every ARBITRARY and every UNCONSTITUTIONAL Act, of a venal and corrupt *Majority*, ſmuggled into the preſent new fangled Court Parliament, through the Villainy of Lord North, and purchaſed with the PUBLIC MONEY, to betray their TRUST, *enſlave* the People, *ſubvert* the Proteſtant Religion, and deſtroy the *Glory*, *Honour*, *Intereſt*, and *Commerce*, both Foreign and Domeſtic, of *England* and *America*; and all this villainous Sacrifice of a *great Empire*, a *brave People*, and the glorious Truths of *Heaven*; to comply with the ambitious Views, and gratify the mean vindictive Spirit of ONE, aſſiſted by a numerous Train of deputy TYRANTS, whoſe ſole aim has been, to trample under Foot the *ſacred* Rights of Mankind, and the Engliſh CONSTITUTION.

It is in your Defence, and in Defence of the Liberties of my Country, that I now ſtand forth, with a fixed Reſolution to oppoſe, and ſhew to the World, unawed by Fear, the dangerous Tendency of every Act of *lawleſs Power*, whether it ſhall proceed from the King, the Lords, or the Commons.

I will endeavour in Conjunction with my fellow Labourer in this great Work, to reſcue the Liberty of the Preſs, (that Bulwark of Freedom) from the RUIN with which it is now threatened, by *Special Juries* of *Middleſex*, and the arbitrary Deciſions of a Scotch Chief Juſtice, the glorious Advocate for *deſpotic Sway*. The heavy Fines, and cruel Impriſonment of the *two Woodfall*'s, without even the *Appearance* of Guilt, and contrary to the Intention of the Jury, will be faithfully recorded by the Pen of Truth, and fill many Pages in the black Catalogue of *Murray*'s Crimes.

It ſhall be my Endeavour in this degenerate Age, to revive the *dying* Embers of *Freedom*, and rouſe my Countrymen in *England*, from that lethargic State of *Supineneſs* and *Inattention*, in which they ſeem to ſleep, at this Time of *national Danger*, when a mighty Kingdom, and all the deareſt Rights of Men are haſtening to their RUIN; that they may yet ſtand high on the Roll of FAME, equal with their brave and virtuous Brethren in *America*, who are now ſtruggling in the glorious Cauſe of *Liberty*, againſt the cruel Oppreſſions, and deſtructive Deſigns of *exalted* Villains, whoſe Actions will be tranſmitted to Poſterity in Characters of Blood, and their Names forever

forever branded with eternal Marks of Infamy; while *America* will remain the Glory and Admiration of the World, and be held in the higheſt Veneration to the end of Time. Let not the long envied Glory of *Britain*, O! my Countrymen, be eclipſed by the virtuous Actions of the *Americans* in the new World; our *Danger* is the *ſame*, *their* Cauſe is *our* Cauſe, with the conſtitutional Rights of *America*, muſt fall, the Liberties of *England*; let us then, ſhew ourſelves equal to them in *Virtue*, *Courage*, Firmneſs, and Reſolution, and as they have done, prove to the World, we are alike Enemies to *Tyranny*, and *lawleſs Power*, and that we never will be Slaves to One, nor to a *Majority* of FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT TYRANTS.

We will ſtrain every Nerve, and brave every Danger, to ſtimulate our Countrymen this Side the *Atlantic*, to a noble Exertion of their Rights as *Freemen*; to ſhew them the *Danger*; as well as the *Infamy*, of remaining *quiet* Spectators of their OWN DESTRUCTION; and to remove that dark Cloud of Slavery, which now obſcures the glorious Light of *Freedom*; and, but for the *Virtue* of our *Forefathers*, would Ages ago, have overwhelmed *this* Kingdom, like the States around us, in a long, a laſting Night, of MISERY and RUIN.

Upon this Plan, and with theſe Principles we ſet out, and intend to proceed, that the Preſent, (if not too far *degenerated*) and future Generations, may enjoy undiminiſhed ALL the BLESSINGS of LIBERTY; To accompliſh this End, we will riſk every Thing that is dear to Man, and brave both *Royal* and *Miniſterial* Vengeance, to preſerve from RUIN (if *poſſible*) the NATURAL RIGHTS of MANKIND, THE *ſacred Conſtitution of the Britiſh Empire*, and the *Freedom of* our *Country*.

Agreeable to our Motto we ſhall ever think, "*Liberty* with *Danger*, *preferable* to *Servitude* with *Security*."

We ſhould glory in the Smiles of our Sovereign, but will never Purchaſe them at the Expence of our *Liberty*; nor will we ever give up, but with our Lives, the Right to expoſe and publickly Diſplay, in all its headous Forms, the cruel Deſpotiſm of *Tyrants*. We can conceive no Reaſon, why the *Laws* and *Religion* of *England* ſhould be ſported with, and trampled under Foot, by a Prince of the Houſe of *Brunſwick*; rather

rather than by one of the Houſe of *Stuart*, ſurely upon every Principle of *Juſtice*, *Reaſon*, and *Common Senſe*, whatever is *Tyranny* and *Murder* in one Man, is equally ſo in another; and if it is *juſt* to *oppoſe* and *reſiſt* one, it is as *juſt* to *oppoſe* and *reſiſt* the other. It is not a *Name*, nor an *Office* however important, that can, or ought to bring Reſpect and Reverence to the Poſſeſſor, while he acts below, and is unworthy of them. Folly and Villainy ought to have no Aſylum, nor can Titles ſanctify *Crimes*, tho' in *our Days* they *protect Criminals*. A Royal, Right Honourable, or a Right Reverend Robber, is the moſt dangerous Robber, and conſequently the moſt to be *deteſted*.

Our modern Advocates for Villainy and Slavery, have found out a new Way of arguing and convincing the Judgements of Men; they make nice *Diſtinctions* without a *Difference*, and tell the World, what was Tyranny in the Time of *Charles* the *firſt*, is not Tyranny in the Days of *George* the *Third*, and to this they add a long Catalogue of Virtues which he never poſſeſſed, they ſay he is *pious*; that his chief Aim is to render his Subjects, a *happy*, *great*, and *free* People; (and indeed he has more than once ſaid ſo himſelf) theſe and many other *Falſhoods* equally wicked and abſurd, they endeavour to inſtill into the Minds of the two eaſily deluded *Engliſh*. Theſe, and ſuch like Artifices, have ever been made Uſe of in the Reigns of arbitrary Kings, to *deceive* the People, and make them with more eaſe, and to Chains well *poliſhed*, ſubmit their Necks, and even *Reverence* and *adore* the Hand that rivets them. Thus do Tyrants ſucceed, and the galling Yoke of Slavery, ſo much complained of by almoſt every Nation in the World, becomes a *Crime* of the firſt MAGNITUDE, in the People through their own Credulity and vile SUBMISSION. Truth, in Spite of all the falſe colouring of venal Writers ſpeaks a different Language, and declares in Oppoſition to the Pen of Falſehood, that *Bloodſhed* and *Slaughter*, *Violence* and *Oppreſſion*, *Popery* and *Lawleſs Power* characteriſe the preſent Reign; and we will defy even the penſioned *Johnſon*, after the cloſeſt Exemination of the two Reigns, to tell which is the beſt. *Charles* broke his *Coronation Oath*, *butchered* his SUBJECTS, made Ten Thouſand *ſolemn Promiſes* he never intended to *perform*, and often committed *Perjury*: (but theſe are no *Crimes* in a *King*, for ALL Kings have a DIVINE RIGHT, to be DEVILS) *He*, tried to overturn the Conſtitution by *Force*, but found his Miſtake when it was too *late*, and that even *Royal Villainy* does not always

ways ſucceed, and when the juſt Vengeance of *Heaven* overtook him, he ſaw, (though he would not believe it before, and imagined, he had a *Divine Right* to ſhed HUMAN BLOOD) that the SAME POWER, which RAISED him UP, could PULL him DOWN: The preſent Sovereign, not wiſhing to make a Figure in Hiſtory *without* a *Head*; and being more *mild* and *gentle*, *juſt* and *good*, has IMPROVED upon the Plan, and is now tearing up the CONSTITUTION by the Roots, under the FORM of LAW; this Method of Proceeding is certainly much *ſafer*, and more *judicious*, as well as *juſt*; for what Right can an ENGLISHMAN have to complain, when he is LEGALLY made a SLAVE by ACT OF PARLIAMENT. How wicked! How rebellious! muſt the *Americans* be, and what *levelling Principles* muſt they poſſeſs, to *reſiſt* the *Divine Right* of the King, and the *divine Right* of the Lords and Commons, under the Sanction of a *divine* Act of Parliament, ſent from *Heaven*, to PLUNDER, BUTCHER, STARVE, or ENSLAVE them, juſt as it ſhall come into their *divine* Heads, or the Heads of their *divine* Inſtruments; and when once they have carried this *divine* Law into Execution, according to their *righteous* Intention, WE ſhall ſoon ſee on this Side the *Atlantic*, that they have the ſame *divine Right*, to uſe US, in the SAME *merciful* and *divine* Manner. This is but the firſt *divine* Step, of a DIABOLICAL Plan for ſhedding HUMAN BLOOD, reducing an INDUSTRIOUS, BRAVE, FLOURISHING, and FREE People, from a State of AFFLUENCE, to that of MISERY, BEGGARY, and SLAVERY; and Nothing, but a Reſolution in the People HERE, will be able to prevent the next *divine* Step of the ſame Plan, from laying in RUINS, ALL the RIGHTS of the *Britiſh*, with thoſe of the *American* World.

The Altar of Deſpotiſm is erected in *America*, and WE ſhall be the next Victims to LAWLESS POWER; all the Horrors of SLAVERY, now ſtare US in the Face; our Religion *ſubverted*, Freedom, Law, and Right *artfully undermined*, the *Roman Catholic Religion*, not *tolerated*, but ESTABLISHED, a Majority of the Houſe of Commons, and Houſe of Lords mere *Creatures* of the King; in ſhort, every Engine of OPPRESSION and ARBITRARY Power is at work to accompliſh our RUIN.

O my

O my Countrymen, that we could but inſpire you with noble Sentiments of LIBERTY, rouſe you to a juſt ſenſe of your immediate Danger, and make you *feel*, ſenſibly *feel*, all the Bleſſings derived from FREEDOM, the natural Right of every Man, but more peculiarly of *Engliſhmen*, it is our *Birthright*, our *Inheritance*, it was handed down to us by our Anceſtors, and *ſealed* often with their BLOOD; let us then, in Juſtice to them, to ourſelves, and to Poſterity, make a noble *conſtitutional* Stand, in *Conjunction* with our noble and ſpirited, but ſuffering fellow Subjects in *America*, againſt the preſent Plan, long fixed by the Minions of Power to deſtroy it, and overturn the Conſtitution, a Conſtitution ten Thouſand Times ſuperior to any Syſtem ever deviſed by the *Greeks* or *Romans*.

At ſuch a time as THIS, when the mercileſs, the relentleſs Hand of Tyranny is tearing out the Vitals of *Freedom*, ſapping the Foundations of *public Security*, making a *Mockery* of *Juſtice*, and deſtroying all the envied *Rights* of *Britain*, and the *Truths* of *Heaven*; I ſay, at ſuch a Time, to be *inattentive* or *inactive*, is *Infamy*, and he who can *tamely* ſee his Country upon the Brink of RUIN, without putting out his Arm, and lending a helping Hand to reſcue her from DESTRUCTION, muſt be an abandoned Wretch, a Diſgrace to the Name of *Engliſhman* and to his Country.

N. B. No. 2, will contain the *ſecret* Reaſons urged in the Cabinet for diſſolving the laſt Parliament, and *ſmuggling* another of the ſame Complexion. &c. &c.

To the People of ENGLAND and AMERICA.

On the 31ſt Day of *March* will be Publiſhed, (Price 1s. 6d.) in Quarto, on a fine Paper, and new Type,

The Prophecy of RUIN, a Poem.

Enſe velut ſtricto, quotis Lucilius ardens
Infremuit, rubet Auditor cui frigida Mens eſt.
Criminibus, tacite ſudant Præcordia Culpa.

JUVENAL.

Sharp as a Sword Lucilius *drew his Pen,*
And ſtruck with panic Terror guilty Men,
At his juſt Strokes the harden'd Wretch would ſtart,
Feel the cold Sweat, and tremble *at the Heart.*

Printed and publiſhed for the Authors, by T. W. SHAW, in Fleet-Street, oppoſite Anderton's Coffee Houſe, where Letters to the Publiſher will be thankfully received.